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THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

S/S 12871

S/Sec'
Memorandum.

R

July 24, 1967

OIL

Dear Bob:

When I appeared recently before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the AID legislation, the Committee again posed a number of questions in regard to the Israeli attack on the U.S.S. Liberty on June 8, 1967. In addition to asking for a full report on the matter, which I undertook to provide, the Committee asked that there be furnished to it, on a confidential basis, the transcript of the Navy Court of Inquiry. I undertook to see whether this could be made available.

Since the hearing, Leonard Meeker, the Department's Legal Adviser, has been in touch with Paul Warnke, General Counsel of the Department of Defense, to discuss the possibility of making available to the Committee, on a classified basis, those portions of the testimony before the Court of Inquiry that dealt with the reconnaissance flights over the Liberty on the morning of June 8 and with the air and torpedo boat attacks on the Liberty later that day. I am writing you this letter to ask that you give your approval to the furnishing of these materials to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to be handled by the Committee with appropriate safeguards.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

Dean Rusk

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 1/24/03
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
T5 AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
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FOIA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

NOTE: Original letter returned to L-Meeker for delivery.

The Honorable
Robert S. McNamara,
Secretary of Defense.

Clearance:
H - Amb. Macomber

MICROFILMED
BY S/S: CMS

L:LCMeeker:jsf 7/24/67

DECLASSIFIED

July 26, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

THROUGH: S/S

FROM: L - Leonard C. Meeker

SUBJECT: Senate Foreign Relations Committee Request for Transcript of Navy Court of Inquiry on U.S.S. Liberty -- ACTION MEMORANDUM

DISCUSSION:

When you appeared recently before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Committee asked for a full report on the Liberty incident and for the transcript of the Navy Court of Inquiry which investigated it.

We have a report in preparation. I have discussed with the Navy and with Paul Warnke, General Counsel of the Defense Department, the question of making available the transcript of the Court of Inquiry. Because there is much testimony in this dealing with communications intelligence and command and control in relation to the ship, the Defense Department did not wish the transcript in its entirety to be made available to the Committee, even on a classified basis. They would, however, on the strength of a written request from you, be prepared to make available those portions of the testimony before the Court of Inquiry that deal with the reconnaissance flights on the morning of June 8 and the attacks which took place later that day.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the attached letter to Secretary McNamara.

Attachment:

Proposed letter to Secretary McNamara

Concurrence:

H - Mr. Macomber

L:LCMeeker:jsf

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